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Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

SAM-01 AID-05 EB-07 IGA-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /084 W
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FM AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5802
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, PORG, BY
SUBJECT: TOUR D'HORIZON WITH NEW FOREIGN MINISTER MUGANGA

1. NEOPHYTE FOREIGN MINISTER MUGANGA, ACCOMPANIED BY THE TWO PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORS GENERAL OF THE MINISTRY (BINAGANA AND WAKARERWA) HAS BEGUN SEPARATE 20 MINUTE SESSIONS WITH EACH MISSION CHIEF HERE FOR GENERAL REVIEW OF RELATIONSHIPS. MY TURN CAME NOVEMBER 27, AND PROVED USEFUL CHANCE TO MENTION SOME PENDING MATTERS.

2. WE CUT SHORT THE STANDARD REPETITION OF GENERALITIES ABOUT BURUNDI'S NON-ALIGNED FOREIGN POLICY BECAUSE WE HAD BEEN THROUGH THE SLOGANS DURING THE CODEL DIGGS CONVERSATIONS. MUGANGA MERELY REITERATED BURUNDI'S DESIRE TO GET MORE AID FROM U.S. I SAID THAT WE HAD MADE CLEAR OUR DECISION TO START A BILATERAL AID RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT IN 1977 AND THAT THE AID OFFICER TO MANAGE THE PROJECT WOULD PROBABLY BE ARRIVING AT THE END OF JANUARY, SIX MONTHS EARLIER THAN EXPECTED. HOWEVER, MUGANGA SHOULD NOT THINK THAT AMERICAN CONTRIBUTIONS WERE LIMITED TO ITEMS THAT HAD SPECIFIC U.S. TAG ON THEM. ONE-FIFTH TO ONE-QUARTER OF ALL WORLD BANK LOANS, UNDP FUNDS, AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CAME FROM WASHINGTON, AND U.S. CONGRESS WAS VERY AWARE THAT THESE WERE AS EFFECTIVE ALLOCATIONS TO POOR
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COUNTRIES AS WERE BILATERAL AID FUNDS. THEN THERE WAS ALSO OVER

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A MILLION DOLLARS PER YEAR IN FOOD AID THROUGH CRS, WHICH WOULD BE SUPPLEMENTED BY ABOUT ONE QUARTER MILLION DOLLARS FOR PEAT PROJECTS. ALL IN ALL, THEREFORE, U.S. GOVERNMENT MONEY FLOWING TO BURUNDI WAS ALREADY QUITE SUBSTANTIAL.

3. I ALSO SAID THAT I HOPED THAT CONVERSATIONS HELD IN WASHINGTON BY MUGANGA'S PREDECESSOR (BWAKIRA) WERE STILL CONSIDERED VALID BY THE NEW GOVERNMENT, AND HE ASSURED ME THAT THIS WAS THE CASE. I THEN NOTED THAT SENIOR AMERICAN OFFICIALS HAD SPOKEN A GOOD BIT ABOUT INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL QUESTIONS. WE STILL HOPED THAT BURUNDI WOULD REALIZE THAT IT WAS NOT IN ITS OWN BEST INTERESTS TO FOLLOW THE LEAD OF ACTIVIST THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES ON SUCH REMOTE ISSUES AS KOREA, OR EVEN ISRAEL.
I SAID THAT A VOTE WOULD TAKE PLACE SHORTLY IN NAIROBI ON THE JERUSALEM EXCAVATIONS ISSUE, AND IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF BURUNDI COULD ABSTAIN.

4. MUGANGA SAID HE THOUGHT THE U.S. HAD BEEN MOLLIFIED BY UNESCO'S DECISION TO READMIT ISRAEL TO THE EUROPEAN GROUP.
I REPLIED THAT THIS HAD BEEN HELPFUL, BUT CONGRESS WOULD BE ALERT TO FURTHER EVIDENCE OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST ISRAEL, AND THIS COULD JEOPARDIZE OUR EFFORTS TO HAVE APPROPRIATIONS RESTORED AT UNESCO.

5. AFTER A SHORT DISCUSSION OF OPEC(SEPTEL), THE MEETING ENDED WHEN I GAVE MUGANGA THE FRENCH TEXT (STATE 284336) OF THE SECRETARY'S SPEECHES ON THE SUBJECT OF THE 1979 UN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE. I URGED MUGANGA TO INSTRUCT THE BURUNDI UN DELEGATION TO SUPPORT THE LOCATION OF THE CONFERENCE IN THE U.S.

6. FYI. WE HAVE HEARD THAT AMBASSADOR PATRICE MIKANAGU AT THE UNITED NATIONS IS BEING REASSIGNED TO BUCHAREST. HE REPLACEMENT IN NEW YORK IS UNKNOWN. END FYI.
MARK

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